

## Rainfall Report\* (mls)

### 2025

May 406.6  
April 205.6  
March 243.8  
Feb 26.6  
Jan 341

### 2024

Dec 23.2  
Nov 47  
Oct 39  
Sept 73.6

\* Source: BOM, Clarence  
Town Rainfall Station 061010

CLARENCE TOWN • GLEN OAK • GLEN MARTIN • GLEN WILLIAM • LIMEBURNERS CREEK • WALLAROBBA • BROOKFIELD

## Clarence Town Senior Citizens Centre

# Belonging at Any Age...

The Clarence Town Senior Citizens Centre is a friendly, welcoming place where community spirit is alive and well.

With more than 40 regular members, it's become an important gathering point for residents from Clarence Town and the surrounding areas.

The group meets each Tuesday from 9am, and on the last Saturday of every month from 8am to 12pm, at the Senior Citizens Hall, 126 Prince Street, Clarence Town. Enjoy morning tea and a hot cooked lunch, plus activities like card games, handicraft and sorting the 2nd hand clothes for sale. But above all, it's about connection.

**"We're here for each other — we talk, we laugh, and we support one another," says a long-time member. "It's something to look forward to every week."**

The Centre isn't just about weekly meetings either. Throughout the year, members enjoy outings and community events. Past excursions have included scenic drives, pub meals, and boat trips – all with plenty of laughs along the way.

The group also keeps in touch with other community organisations and welcomes new members with open arms. You don't need to live in Clarence Town to join – just be over 55 and up for a bit of fun and friendship.

*So if you're looking to meet new people, stay socially active, or simply enjoy a cuppa and a chat, come along and see what it's all about. You might be surprised just how much you enjoy it. Just drop by – new faces are always welcome.*

**For info call Owen Giggins 0409 603 995.**

✦ CLOSING DATE FOR NEWS & ADS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE IS 10TH AUGUST ✦



Image by: Shannon Richmond Photography



**Don't Toss Them –  
Donate Your Glasses!**

OUR LIONS PAGE 8



**RFS Needs YOU!  
Become a Volunteer**

Page 11

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# sculpture on the farm Dungog 2025

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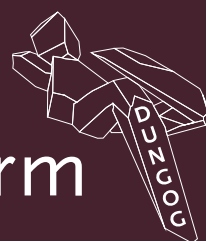
 SCAN ME

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Kids 18 & under FREE

Dungog Common  
Enter via 74 Common Road,  
Dungog NSW 2420

[sculptureonthefarm.com](http://sculptureonthefarm.com)

sculpture  
on the farm



\* Pictured. UFO Utopia by Nigel Dobson



# Letter from the Sentinel Editor

Over the past couple of months, life in our region has shifted again — a reminder of just how quickly things can change. The heavy rains and localised flooding in May and June left their mark across Clarence Town and surrounds, washing out roads, damaging property, and forcing us all to slow down and reassess.

While this weather didn't bring the devastation of the 2015 Dungog floods — which we've recently remembered with deep respect — the impact is still real. And for communities further north who are still picking up the pieces, our thoughts are with you.

The floods have left the Glen William School playground and surrounding roads in no shape to safely host one of our favourite local events. With heavy hearts, the organisers have made the difficult decision to cancel **Le Tour De Glen William** for 2025. It's disappointing, but the spirit of the ride deserves the right conditions.

On 18 July, the *Country Women's Association* and *Paterson Allyn Williams Science & Ideas Hub* invite you to a FREE community talk: **Illuminating Local Women: Talk #2 with Gillian Calvert AO** — a powerful story of rural beginnings, strong women, and national leadership in child advocacy. Stay for soup, a Q&A, and a chance to connect.

**Sculpture on the Farm Dungog** returns from *Friday 29th-Sunday 31st August* for a three-day celebration. The event has been running every 2 years since 2018, on a private farm in Fosterton. This year, sees a move to Dungog Common. As an artist, designer and committee member, I see firsthand how the arts bring people together in unexpected and powerful ways. The event showcases over 100 indoor and outdoor sculptural works by Australian artists, all for sale. It's a chance to wander, reflect, and be inspired. If you're curious, come along. If you're able, lend a hand by volunteering here: [sculptureonthefarm.wufoo.com/forms/calling-all-volunteers/](https://sculptureonthefarm.wufoo.com/forms/calling-all-volunteers/)

These shared moments help us rebuild, reconnect, and remember what really matters.

*If you've got a **community event or newsworthy tidbit to share**, I'd love to hear about it! Drop me a line at [thesentinel2321@gmail.com](mailto:thesentinel2321@gmail.com)*

*Until next edition x Cathy Schneider*

*Disclaimer: Articles submitted to this newsletter may be edited for clarity, length, accuracy, and style at the discretion of the editor. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the views and opinions expressed in submitted articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the newsletter team or affiliated organisations. Publication does not imply endorsement.*

# Community Events Calendar

Welcome to the heart of Clarence Town! Discover local happenings, cultural events and opportunities.

To list your local event for free, email [thesentinel2321@gmail.com](mailto:thesentinel2321@gmail.com)

## JULY

**Thurs 3rd** 6.30pm: **Clarence Town Progress Association** meeting. Clarence Town Community Centre.

**Sat 5th** 6.30pm: **Wallarobba Hall Trivia Night**, Come solo or with friends – tables of 8. *Dress-up theme: Anything starting with 'W'*. \$10 donation pp. BYO Drinks & Nibbles. A fun night guaranteed! To book call Cindy 0439 956 163.

**Mon 7th** **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS START** for public schools

**Tues 8th** 6pm: **Clarence Town Lions Club** meeting. Clarence Town Bowling Club.

**Thurs 17th** 6.30pm: **Dungog District Chamber of Commerce**, networking dinner meeting at Zabb Thai in Vacy. *All welcome, bookings essential*. Please RSVP via email at [secretary@ddcc.org.au](mailto:secretary@ddcc.org.au).

**Fri 18th** 5.30pm. **FREE Speaker Event: Illuminating Local Women with Gillian Calvert**. *Hosted by the Dungog/Clarence Town CWA and Paterson, Allyn, Williams Science & Ideas Hub*. The James Theatre Dungog. Reserve your seat: [trybooking.com/events/landing/1422671](https://trybooking.com/events/landing/1422671)

**Mon 21st** **BACK TO SCHOOL** for public schools

**Sat 26th** 8am-12pm: **Clarence Town Markets**, hosted by the Lion's Club. Clarence Town Bowling Club. Located in the Hall of Arts if wet.

## AUGUST

**Thurs 7th** 6.30pm: **Clarence Town Progress Association** meeting. Clarence Town Community Centre.

**Tues 12th** 6pm: **Clarence Town Lions Club** meeting. Clarence Town Bowling Club.

**Aug 29-31** **Sculpture on the Farm Dungog Exhibition**. Over 100 contemporary Australian sculptures displayed at Dungog Common. For more info and to book [sculptureonthefarm.com](https://sculptureonthefarm.com)

**Sat 30th** 8am-12pm: **Clarence Town Markets**, hosted by the Lion's Club. Clarence Town Bowling Club.



# Shine Local, Shine Bright: Meet SHINE Hair & Beauty

Tucked into the heart of Clarence Town in the lovingly repurposed old butcher's shop, SHINE Hair & Beauty is more than a salon – it's a proud fixture in our community.

Established in 2010 and relocated to its current space in 2020, SHINE has grown into a trusted name for both hair and beauty services in the region. Whether it's a first haircut for a toddler, a formal upstyle, or a relaxing facial, SHINE caters to all ages and occasions with professional care and a personal touch.

Owner and operator Sonia Watson, brings a passion for the craft that shows in every service – ranging from precision cuts, colouring and balayage to curly hair expertise, lash lifts, and makeup for weddings or special events. The team also offers beauty services including waxing, massage, tinting, manicures, pedicures and more.

With a strong focus on continuous training, the friendly team stays up to date with the latest trends and techniques.

A proud member of the Australian Hair Council and Sustainable Salons, SHINE is committed to eco-conscious practices and industry excellence. As part of the Dungog Chamber of Commerce, the salon actively supports local events, businesses, and schools – truly putting community first.

If you haven't discovered SHINE yet, now's the perfect time to book in, stop by, and support a business that gives back to Clarence Town in every way. Whether you're after a bold new look or a little self-care, SHINE Hair & Beauty is ready to welcome you.

**SHINE is open Tuesday to Friday (see hours in the ad below), and on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays of each month. To make a booking call 0491 209 114.**



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\*See back page for pricing, sizing and inclusions



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We provide Hair cuts - Ladies, Men's, School age, Infants and Seniors.  
Curly Cutting and Colouring Specialists.  
Up styling for Weddings, Formals and Special occasions.

All Beauty services - Waxing and Tinting, Facials, Massaging, Manicures and Pedicures, Eyelash Extensions, Lash Lifts and Makeup for all occasions

#### SALON HOURS:

Tuesday 9am to 5pm  
Wednesday 9am to 2pm  
Thursday and Friday 9am to 5pm  
Saturday by appointment only



*Clarence Town First Responders (CFR)*

## 240 Reasons Why It Matters...

Our CFR team has been busy responding to calls for medical assistance.

At the June RFB AGM we acknowledged over 240 jobs were attended over the previous 12 months. This really shows the value of the CFR program to our community. We have received many communications of appreciation from members of the community and we value the communications appreciation for what our teams does. There is always room for more CFR members. If you feel that you would like to gain some great knowledge and skills for emergency medical first response and help your greater community, please get in touch with me.

It is that time of the year when the flu season is upon us. Take care of yourself, speak to your doctor about trying to reduce the impact of influenza on you especially if you have any existing illnesses. Protect yourself from interactions with others who are showing signs and symptoms of influenza or other respiratory infections. Take care everyone.

**You can call Brad (CFR) on 0417 651 577 or Shaun (RFB Captain) on 0429 540 422.**

*Clarence Town & District Historical Museum Assoc.*

## A Day of Discovery and Leadership

Sexton's bus trip with 40 seniors from Rutherford attended in April, followed at lunch time by nine students who engaged in Dungog Shire's Emerging Leaders' Workshop, organised by Tracey Lowry from council, and attended by our two local Councillors and Mayor Digby Rayward.

Students participated in workshop activities and then lunch provided by Dungog Council. It was a quite a unique event for the town and a different use of the Museum.

Our two Youth Ambassadors, James and Jack, managed the bus visitors from the moment the bus arrived until departure, and then introduced the museum to the school students and spoke to them about the process by which they became involved in the Museum. Then onto workshops!

*It was truly a remarkable day.*

**Open the 2nd Sat of each month, 10am–2pm or by appointment. Chris O'Neill, Museum Committee Secretary, Ctmuseum@outlook.com 0491 346 491**

### Clarence Town Bowling, Sport & Recreation Club

Ph- (02) 49964222

Email - admin@clarrobowlo.com.au

Socials - FB: Clarence Town Bowling Club  
IG- @clarencetownbowlingclub\_



**TUESDAY**– Euchre 6:30pm  
Bingo! 6:30pm start, \$12 for 20 games & 2 jackpot sheets

**THURSDAY**– Bingo 11:30am start, \$12 for 20 games & 2 jackpot sheets

**FRIDAY** – Meat & Voucher Raffles, Members Draw & Live Music  
(tickets on sale at 6pm and drawn at 7pm)

**SATURDAY** – Meat Raffles  
(tickets on sale at 2pm & drawn at 4pm)

**LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH** – Meat & Voucher Raffles + Members Draw  
(tickets on sale at 5pm and drawn at 6pm)

**HAPPY HOUR** – Wednesday & Thursday 4–6pm  
& Saturday 2–4pm

**OPENING HOURS:**  
Monday – From 2pm  
Tuesday–Sunday – From 11am



**Maria's Kitchen Opening Hours:**  
Lunch: 12:00–2:00 Thursday– Sunday  
Dinner: 5:30–8:00 Tuesday– Sunday

**Courtesy Bus runs Every Friday & Saturday from 5pm! \$5 per person return trip, call the club and follow the prompts to book a ride!**

# CLARENCE TOWN Post Office

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CLARENCE TOWN NSW 2321  
02 4996 4109

**Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm**

AUSTRALIA  
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Clarence Town Op Shop & Treasure Centre

## Shop, Save & Stay Warm

With the Winter now upon us, do come in and check out our Winter clothes. We have some lovely warm jackets for only \$10.00.

At the moment we are having a 'fill-a-bag' for only \$15.00.

We also have available, Clarence Town School clothes, Wool, Crochet Cotton, Martial Arts belts and uniforms.

We are open every Wednesday from 8.30am to noon although the doors may be shut to keep out the Winter wind.

Thank you to all our volunteers who brave the wind, rain and cold to come and help each week. Your dedication and loyalty is appreciated so much.

Our Treasure Centre has a great range of household items and bric-a-brac, and there are always specials available. See you soon and do stay warm and dry.

**Follow us on Facebook: @OP SHOP Anglican Church Clarence Town** to stay updated on our latest deals!

Gillian Finch 4994 9168 / 0477 326 142

St. John's Anglican Church, Cnr of Grey & Queen Sts

Book Recommendations

## Shelf Life

Looking for your next page-turner? The Sentinel's curated book recommendations make finding the perfect read a breeze – for adults and kids alike!

***The Secret Scripture*  
by Sebastian Barry – Reviewed by  
Anne Higgins**

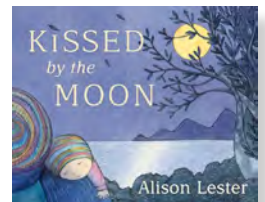
An Irish writer, Sebastian Barry is a great storyteller. This novel is set in a Mental Hospital where Roseanne McNulty is nearing her 100th birthday and due to a redevelopment is being assessed for placement elsewhere. She has spent most of her adult life in the institution due to her labelling as an adulteress. Through her hidden journals and her discussions with her psychiatrist Dr Grene her story emerges which is at once shocking and yet beautiful.

With central themes of truth, reliability, memory and old age it has been recently been made into a movie starring Vanessa Redgrave and Eric Bana.



***“Kissed by the moon”* by  
Alison Lester – Reviewed  
By Anne Fisher**

“Kissed by the moon” is a delightful board book for young children written and illustrated by Australian, Alison Lester. This calming bedtime story is part poem, part lullaby. It gently celebrates a baby's wonder at our beautiful world. It is set in the outdoors - by a beach, garden, orchard, bush and farm throughout the day in various weather conditions - snow, sunshine and rain. The illustrations are magical and reflect the text ending the story with a child being cuddled in a scene by a peaceful sea. “May you grow sleepy at sunset, sing to the stars and drift into dreams”. A book to share regularly.



**Brought to you by “Books & More,” 232 Dowling St, Dungog.**  
**Explore our \$5 book collection and support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.**  
**Contact Anne Higgins at 0403 029 181.**

## CLARENCE TOWN SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

Open Tuesdays from 9am  
and the last Saturday of  
every month 8am–12pm

Please join us to...

MEET NEW PEOPLE

PLAY CARDS

GET CREATIVE WITH  
RELAXED CRAFTING

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HAND CLOTHING

**PLUS ENJOY MORNING TEA  
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126 Prince St, Clarence Town  
For more details contact:  
Owen Giggins 0409 603 995

## The Tooth Whisperer

Horse Dentist Brad Whalan EqDT

[www.thetoothwhisperer.com.au](http://www.thetoothwhisperer.com.au)  
**CLARENCE TOWN 0417 245 244**

Clarence Town Lions Club Report



# From the Lion's Den

**Did you know your old reading glasses can help someone see clearly again?**

The Clarence Town Lions Club is proudly supporting the Lions Recycle for Sight program. This initiative collects used prescription glasses and sunglasses, which are cleaned, sorted, and sent to people in need across the world – often in remote or disadvantaged communities where access to eye care is limited. It's an easy way to give something you no longer need a second life.

**Drop-off boxes are available at:**

**Clarence Town Bowling Club,  
and Clarence Town Op Shop**

We encourage everyone to check their drawers, cupboards, or glove boxes – every pair can help change a life.

We're also excited to share the success of our recent Biggest Morning Tea, hosted by the Clarence Town Lions Club to raise funds for cancer research. With overwhelming support from the community, we enjoyed a wonderful morning of delicious treats, raffles, and great company. Together, we raised an impressive \$2,279.10! A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who helped organise the event, our incredibly supportive community, and the generous local businesses who donated gifts, raffle prizes and morning tea. We couldn't have done it without you.

The Clarence Town Lions are also actively looking for new members or volunteers. Being a Lion doesn't mean a lifelong commitment—it just means you care about your community and want to help where you can. Whether you can offer an hour a month, a special skill, or help with a single event, we'd love to hear from you.

Volunteering is a great way to connect with others, give back, and be part of something meaningful. It's also a lot of fun!

If you'd like to learn more or come along to a meeting, reach out to any of our local members or pop by one of our Lions markets. Together, we can make a difference.

**Monthly Meetings: Held at Clarence Town Bowling Club, 6pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Contact: Trudy Balstad (Public Officer) – 0409 645 469 or come and say hello at the Clarence Town Markets on the last Saturday of each month.**

**Follow Us on Facebook: @ Clarence Town Lions Club**

DUNGOG & DISTRICT

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[neighbourcare.org.au](http://neighbourcare.org.au)  
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## NEED A VENUE FOR A PARTY, WEDDING OR FUNCTION ?

### Why not hire the Hall?

The Clarence Town School of Arts Hall in Grey Street has everything right in the heart of town.

If you want to have your function at home, why not hire tables, chairs and anything else we can help you with.

**Phone: Robyn Barco 0412 673 386**

## YOGA

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**Thursdays 5pm in the Anglican Church Hall**

**Please call Maggie 0467 325 034**



Clarence Town Tennis Club

## News On (and Off) the Court



Our Autumn Social Night Comp went well with a few nights disrupted due to weather. Overall another fun tennis comp.

At the time of reading, hopefully the Winter Night comp is up and running. Even though the nights are colder, running around on the tennis courts is a great way to keep warm and keep fit. Our AGM was held on Saturday the 28th of June. We looked back on some great achievements over the previous year and the incoming committee is hitting the ground running with planned activities and actions for improving the club. We are looking at various grant opportunities to be able to replace the aging court surface and upgrade the court lighting.

Early August will see the Tennis Club Trivia night fundraiser being held at the Clarence Town Bowling Sport & Recreation Club. Can an eye out for the date and come along for a fun night of trivia.

**To make a court hire booking or for more info contact:**  
**Brad (0417 651 577), Gai (0419 600 219)**

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**ALISON PENFOLD MP**  
**FEDERAL MEMBER for Lyne**

*Thank You*

**I'm honoured to represent  
Clarence Town and the  
Lyne electorate**

**WAUCHOPE OFFICE**

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Wauchope NSW 2446

✉ [alison.penfold.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:alison.penfold.mp@aph.gov.au)  
f /AlisonPenfoldMPforLyne

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Authorised by Alison Penfold MP, 144 Victoria Street, Taree NSW 2430



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*New South Wales Rural Fire Service*

# Have You Ever Thought Of Becoming A Volunteer? Joining A Rural Fire Brigade?

Discover the different ways our volunteers help to protect their community. Available roles will depend on individual brigades, so it's best to discuss your options with the brigade you're seeking to join.

New members will receive enough training to get started, and from there you can progress through a variety of pathways.

## **Firefighting**

Our firefighters are trained to respond to all types of fires and other emergencies. You can also develop specialist skills such as structural firefighting, aviation support, and remote area operations.

## **Operational support**

Provide vital support to firefighters by using skills in radio communications, catering operations, training, logistics, and equipment maintenance.

## **Community support**

Help your community and brigade prepare for bush fires through community engagement, online and social media, events, fundraising, and volunteer recruitment.

## **Brigade administration**

Support your local brigade by getting involved in managing financial and membership administration, internal communications, meetings, and record keeping.

## **So what is the application process?**

Complete the Membership Application, providing your personal details, any medical history and all relevant disclosures.

## **Complete the Police Check Application**

Submitting copies of your identification and providing your consent for a Police Check to be conducted. This is required for all applicants age 16 years and older.

## **Brigade Review**

The interview is an informal opportunity for the Brigade to get to know you and for you to learn more about the Brigade and the commitment they expect from their volunteers. You may be interviewed by a panel of members within the Brigade

***For More Information please phone Clarence Town Brigade on 4996 4454***

***PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE.***

***Stay safe until next time, Di Bennett OAM***

***Lower Hunter Zone Community Engagement Team***

*Pictured below, just some of our dedicated volunteers hard at work assisting with the ongoing flood response across the region in late May/June. Actively working in the Maitland and Port Stephens areas conducting rapid damage assessments, hosing out flooded properties, and lending a hand to our mates at NSW RFS - Raymond Terrace Brigade.*





*Dungog Councillors Report*

# Clarence Town Floods

Fortunately recent flooding was not as severe as our 2007 Flood, when two commercial properties were inundated as water from the Town Creek catchment confronted back water from the Williams River in what approximated to “a 1 in 100 year flood” event.

This commonly used term does not mean such a flood would not occur for another 100 years. It is officially called the “100 year ARI Flood” (Average Recurrence Interval) or more aptly, the 1% AEP (Annual Exceedance Probability) indicating the probability of a certain flow occurring in a river.

While it has a 1% or 1 in 100 chance of occurring in any one year, it has a 10% (1 in 10) chance of occurring in a 10 year period, a 25% (1 in 4) chance in 30 years and a 50% (1 in 2) chance over 70 years. Compare this with the 1 in 45 million chance of winning Lotto!

The default flood planning level for NSW is the 100 year ARI plus half a metre freeboard, which is a compromise between minimizing loss of life and building costs. This works well in most locations, but not necessarily on a floodplain.

A “floodplain” is defined as land that is likely to be inundated by the most extreme flood that could conceivably occur in a particular catchment i.e. the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). The NSW Government has co funded numerous catchment

specific flood studies that determine flood levels for rainfall events up to and including the PMF.

The Clarence Town Flood Study 2014 considers flooding from local rainfall in the Town Creek catchment and of course what happens in the Williams River with comprehensive maps showing the extent of the flooding:

[www.dungog.nsw.gov.au/Plan-Develop/Land-Environment-and-Heritage/Flood-Plain-Management](http://www.dungog.nsw.gov.au/Plan-Develop/Land-Environment-and-Heritage/Flood-Plain-Management)

As few catchments if any have experienced a PMF since 1788, our experience with Australian weather is merely a small sample of its climate and early settlers learned the hard way about our droughts and flooding rains.

Australia’s deadliest flood was at Gundagai in June 1852 when at least 89 people died. The town was built on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River against the advice of the Wiradjuri people. A 1:50 ARI rainfall event left only three buildings standing. About 90 people were rescued from trees by two Wiradjuri men using bark canoes. A similar flood occurred there in 1853. The town was rebuilt on higher ground, which in hindsight should have provided a lesson for so many other towns that were also established on floodplains.

The recent flooding in Dungog Shire was declared a Natural Disaster with joint Commonwealth and State funding available to restore substantial damage caused to our infrastructure.

***Your local B Ward Councillors:***

***James Campbell 0484 599 709***

***[james.campbell@dungog.nsw.gov.au](mailto:james.campbell@dungog.nsw.gov.au)***

***Steve Low 4996 4022 [steve.low49@gmail.com](mailto:steve.low49@gmail.com)***

# COST OF LIVING ASSISTANCE

**The NSW Government has programs to assist with cost of living expenses.**

**Call Service NSW on 13 77 88 or visit your local Service Centre.**

**Check the Savings Finder:  
[www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/savings-finder](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/savings-finder)**



**Dave Layzell MP**  
**MEMBER FOR UPPER HUNTER**



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Email:  
mail@felixprentice.com.au

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Stuart Flinn - CPA & Tax Agent 0407 956 264  
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The Dungog District Chamber of Commerce



DUNGOG DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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### Recent TAFE Connects Workshop in Dungog

A recent workshop hosted by the TAFE Connects team took place in Dungog, focusing on the region's current and future training needs—particularly those related to TAFE. A clear and consistent message emerged from local participants: there is a strong need for a dedicated training centre within Dungog Shire, along with enhanced public transport options to better connect the area with major training hubs in Maitland and Newcastle.

The Dungog District Chamber of Commerce remains committed to actively supporting the outcomes and ongoing discussions arising from this important initiative.

### Upcoming Chamber Networking Dinner

Our next Chamber networking dinner will be held at Zabb Thai in Vacy on Thursday, 17 July. Join us at 6:30 PM for a 7:00 PM start. Everyone is welcome, but bookings are essential. Please RSVP via email at [secretary@ddcc.org.au](mailto:secretary@ddcc.org.au).

### Member Benefits—Make the Most of Your Chamber Membership

With the new financial year underway, it's a great time to reflect on the value of being a member of the Dungog District Chamber of Commerce. Through our partnership with Business NSW and the Chamber Alliance, we help amplify the voice of Dungog Shire businesses at local, state, and national levels.

#### Membership benefits include:

- Cutting through government red tape
- Staying informed about workplace laws and compliance
- Opportunities to connect with fellow business owners
- Access to business resources, expert advice, and exclusive events
- Advocacy on major issues, including payroll tax

*We encourage all local businesses and organisations to take advantage of the Chamber's support and resources in the year ahead.*

*Dungog District Chamber of Commerce endeavours to represent and support business and community across the Dungog Shire. If you would like to find out more about becoming a member of our organisation and its benefits, please contact [secretary@ddcc.org.au](mailto:secretary@ddcc.org.au) or visit [www.ddcc.org.au](http://www.ddcc.org.au)*

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# Tech Updates: Outlook Changes, Etsy Rules and WhatsApp Ads

*Outlook Express*, the popular email program included with Windows XP, was discontinued after XP. Windows 7 and 8 did not include a built-in email client, with users directed to download alternatives like *Windows Live Mail* which was free or use alternate web-based services.

This was retired in December 2024 and replaced with *Outlook NEW*. Windows mail will automatically update to this by itself, but you will have to re-setup your email. This program looks the same as the webmail app on the Microsoft website, it is most suitable to Imap emails and needs permission to import contacts and email settings.

The name *Outlook New* is confusing, as *Outlook* already existed as part of Microsoft Office. The Office version is now called *Outlook Classic*. *Outlook New* is more like webmail — it doesn't support saving to a PST file, and all emails must be stored online. The top email is always an ad. You can't open documents directly from the program unless you have Office 365; a workaround is to save the file to your desktop and open it with your existing Office software. *Outlook Classic* is fully featured without these limitations but isn't free — it comes with Office Business or Office 365.

Recent changes to licencing, office 365 Family or Personal, is no longer eligible to connect to an exchange email. You must now use office 365 business or Microsoft 365 Apps for business. *Microsoft Publisher* will no longer be supported after October 2026 and will not be included with any office packages.

## Other Recent Changes

### WhatsApp to have ads

WhatsApp says users will start seeing ads in some parts of the app, as owner Meta Platforms moves to cultivate a new revenue stream by tapping the billions of people that use the messaging service. At this stage they will not appear in personal chats — developers have said.

### Etsy Returning to Handmade Roots

Etsy has recently updated its terms: you can now only sell items that you've designed yourself. The platform, originally created for handmade goods, had become overrun by mass-produced items, often from China. Sellers using 3D printing farms or dropshipping to stock their shops may have their accounts closed. You can still use tools like sewing machines, Cricuts, 3D printers, or routers.

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# From the Parson's Pen Meeting Others (Chance or God's will)

In looking at this question I cannot come up with definite "yes" or "no" to either proposition. What I can do is attempt to REFLECT on the question and come up with some thoughts that emerge.

As I go about my daily life I include large chunks of prayer in my routine. Part of this prayer routine involves maintaining a prayer diary.

## It goes as follows:-

Before commencing Evening Prayer I have a number of spiritual exercises that I try to complete before moving on to the formal devotions.

This 'exercise' involves using an A4 diary (one page per day) and going through the following reflections.

- **Giving thanks.**  
I call to mind all of the things I have to be thankful for (people and situations).
- **Prayer for.**  
This includes a range people and situations
- **Forgiveness.**  
Those I need to forgive and anything I need forgiveness for.
- **Commend.**  
This involves reflecting ahead to the night and the day to follow this one.

In all of these processes I am trying to 'line myself up with God' so, in everything I do I am trying to discern God's will for me in the situations I know about as well as the one's I don't yet know about.

One of the tasks of a Christian is to learn to see the world 'as Jesus would see it'; to deal with each person and situation as Jesus would do so.

So, by keeping God in my awareness, I am opening myself up to whatever comes my way that I may respond to it not only in a human way but also in a God-like way.

When I reflect on my day during this exercise I don't (necessarily) feel that every encounter or happening was 'engineered by God' but, there are many times when I have to wonder if something (or some one) entered my life because I had opened myself up to what God wanted me to do.

*Rev.d Greg Clarke.*

## St. John's Anglican Church

36 Grey St, Clarence Town

Pastor: Rev Kimbalee Hodges

*Service Times: Every Sunday, Holy Communion at 10am*

We had a lovely Pentecost Service on the 8th June, which was also the birthday of one of our much-loved parishioners, Russell. Great to spend that time with him. The church was decorated with Pentecost banners and also red balloons. It looked very festive, as a birthday should. Pentecost is referred to as the Church's birthday, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples of Jesus and they were empowered and sent out into the world to preach the Good News of Christ and the way to salvation and eternal life.

We were finally able to get out lawns mown, thank you. It has just been too wet. They looked great for Pentecost. We are organizing more gravel for our car park too, so that we don't sink when it is wet.

A theft – someone has stolen the Glen William Cemetery sign, sadly. Can't imagine what they would want it for. Although it looked like a council sign, our church did actually pay for the sign and it would be wonderful if it was returned.

As Margaret has mentioned in her Christ Church report, we are sadly saying farewell to our Rev Kimbalee. All too soon for us, but her last service at Clarence Town will be on Sunday, 20th July, at 10am followed by lunch in our hall. Please note – there will not be a service at St. John's on Sunday, 27th July as that will be the combined service at Christ Church, Dungog, and the Parish's official farewell. The Rev.d Neville Schofield will be caring for our parish until a new priest is commissioned and we look forward to sharing fellowship with him and Jane.

*Our Op Shop/Treasure Centre is open each Wednesday from 8.30am to noon and our Sunday Services are at 10am each Sunday (with the exception of the 27th July).*

*Sue Flannery*

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## Christ Church, Dungog

Dowling Street, Dungog

*Service Times: Every Friday 10.30am, Sunday 8.30am*

*Sunday night service: 4th Sunday of every month at 5pm*

We are busy as usual. For our last 2 markets we have not been able to use our grounds as they were too wet. We have used the two halls and had 11 or 12 stalls in them. It is working well but would love to have the outside also. Time will tell when we can use the outside! The Op Shop has been opened on our market days as usual but no BBQ which we miss.

Mother's Union will have their musical afternoon on Thursday 14th August at 2 pm in Christ Church hall at 51 Dowling St. The High School students come to entertain us and it is always a lovely afternoon. Door charge is only \$10 which includes afternoon tea. All welcome.

We farewell our Priest Rev Kimbalee on Sunday 27th July at a 10 am Combined service with a Bring and Share Lunch afterward. We have been so lucky to have had her for 3 and half years. We would have liked it longer! She will be commissioned to her new Parish of Singleton on Tuesday 26th August at 6 pm. We shall take a bus load of us over to hand her over to Singleton, with many tears!!

The last Sunday Nite with Rev Kimbalee at Christ Church will be on Sunday 22nd June beginning at 5 pm with a Bring and Share meal to follow. We are hoping that on the 6th July it will be dry enough to have St Peter's in the paddock at 5 pm at Bendolba. Due to the wet conditions there has not been a service there for a few months. Services for Dungog are Friday 10.30 am, Sunday 8.30 am.

***Cuppa and Chat is on each Friday in Christ Church Hall from 9.30 to 11am where all are welcome.***

***Blessings Margaret Flannery***

## Clarence Town Presbyterian Church

29 Marshall Street, Clarence Town (Opposite the School).

Pastor: Rev Allan D. Welch

*Service Times: 10am Gathered Worship every Sunday.*

From the pulpit we have completed our seven week thematic series titled - "Life after Death." Coming up next we look at one of the most influential books of the New Testament – Romans; the book that was the written force behind some of the most significant conversions in history like Augustine, Martin Luther, John Wesley and John Bunyan.

Morning tea is provided each week after church. Next Lord's Supper and fellowship lunch will be on Sunday 3rd August.

Mainly Music (every Wed), SRE (Scripture) at Clarence Town Public School (every Wednesday) and Growth Group Bible Study (Tuesday and now Monday evenings) are all back in the swing.

***"And what does the LORD require of you? To do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8***

***In Christ, Rev Allan D. Welch 0402 387 690***

## St. Patrick's Catholic Church

41 Rifle St, Clarence Town

Pastor: Rev Andrew Doohan

*Service Times: Every Sunday 8am*

Well, the rains have finally abated and next we will be praying because we will be dry. This beautiful country of ours never ceases to amaze me.

Our parish of St. Francis of Assisi is taking a pilgrimage. So on the weekend before we officially become a new parish, we are coming together and visiting each of the four churches, Dungog, Clarence Town, Summer Hill and concluding at St. Helen's on Gresford. The object is to pray together for the future of our new parish. We will conclude the journey with a gathering for lunch. So save the date, Saturday, June 28.

Our church is still rejoicing in the election of our new Pope Leo XIV. May God bless him. We remember, in our prayers, the communities that have been ravaged by flood recently and hope that they get the support and help they need to get back to some kind of normality.

***May God continue to bless our church and congregation and all the people of Clarence Town.***

***Marilyn Amos***



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Clarence Town Primary Public School

# Storms, Stages & Sports Days

It is hard to believe we are already nearing the halfway point of the school year! It is such a privilege to lead a school filled with talented and engaged students, dedicated staff and a supportive school community.

These are just some of our Term 2 highlights.

## Weather chaos

It has been a very interesting few weeks with the weather forcing our school to be non-operational for four days. We hope our school families and wider community members managed to remain safe throughout the week, with minimal damage sustained to properties. Thank you for your patience as we continued to monitor the weather and road conditions, whilst working with the Department of Education to be able to return to normal school operation safely, and as soon as possible.

## GRIP Leadership

On Wednesday 28 May our school leaders attended a leadership conference and workshop at Newcastle City Hall. It was an inspiring day filled with learning about the responsibilities of being a student leader- being a role model and a voice for others. Our leaders are now looking forward to prioritising ideas that help others the most in our school community.

## Star Struck

This year we have two groups participating in Star Struck, the ultimate performing arts extravaganza! Students have been busy rehearsing dance routines with Mrs Russell and Miss

Bultitude, which will culminate in performances on Friday 13 June and Saturday 14 June. I cannot wait to see our students shine on stage.

## Sports update

### Scone & District Horse Sports

Three of our talented riders- Ashley, Hazel, and Matilda, represented our school with pride at the Scone & District Horse Sports held on Friday 9 May. With over 140 riders in attendance, the event was a fantastic showcase of equestrian talent and sportsmanship. Our riders did an excellent job representing Clarence Town Public School and we are incredibly proud of their dedication and performance throughout the day. A big thank you to Beck Egan who was Team Manager.

### Zone Cross Country

27 brave students competed in the pouring rain at Lakeside Oval, Raymond Terrace. Congratulations to Evie & Arlo who have progressed to the regional championships.

### Netball

Congratulations to our amazing Netballers who have progressed to Round 2 of the Hunter Netball Knockout with a close, 16-14 win over Seaham!

### Athletics Carnival

Our annual carnival was held at the Maitland regional Athletics Centre. It was a fantastic day, with students competing in track events as well as high jump, long jump, shot put and discus. Mr Myers did a fantastic job organising and running the day, with P&C keeping tummies happy by running the canteen.

**Kim Smith, Principal**

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*Glen William Primary Public School*

## An Eventful Start to Term 2!

It's great to hear that Glen William students were able to continue their learning through Zoom meetings and remote learning resources despite the challenges posed by flooding.

The adaptability and commitment of both teachers and students in such situations is commendable. This kind of resilience ensures that education continues even in the face of adversity. Well done to the entire school community!

Despite the challenges of flooding, it's great to hear that some students were able to participate in the GAME JAM at Dungog High School. The high tea trivia event for mothers, grandmothers, and loved ones was delightful—it's wonderful to create opportunities for connection and celebration. The combination of delicious food and engaging company made for a fantastic morning.

Students are not only engaging in learning but also participating in sports. Three of our students, Dezzy Annabel & Owen are off to Hunter Cross Country. This event will be a great opportunity for those three students to showcase their athletic skills and represent our school.

### ***A fantastic excursion for the Infants Class!***

This excursion visiting Oakvale Farm was a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn about animals and farming, and to have some hands-on experiences in a fun environment. It's was great way to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences.

Unfortunately, we must cancel Le Tour De Glen William bike ride for 2025. This decision comes after careful consideration of the current state of our playground and the surrounding roads in the district, which have been significantly impacted by recent floods.

Playground Repairs: The floods have caused damage to our playground, making it necessary to undertake repairs to ensure it is safe and accessible for our students and community.

Our priority is to provide a safe environment where children can play and learn.

Road Conditions: Additionally, the recent weather events have affected the condition of the roads around the district, which would have posed safety concerns for participants and attendees during the event. We are committed to addressing these issues and are working diligently to restore both the playground and the roads. We appreciate your understanding during this time and look forward to bringing Le Tour De Glen William back in 2026, when we can ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. Thank you for your continued support.

### ***Fruit Break & Crunch & Sip***

A lovely initiative from the P&C! The P&C are providing a fruit bowl each day. This is a great way to promote healthy eating habits among students. It complements the breakfast club nicely and ensures that students have nutritious options available throughout the day. It's wonderful to see the community coming together to support the wellbeing of the students. A big thank you to the P&C for their efforts!

### ***Breakfast Club***

Stage 3 students are taking the initiative to run the breakfast club each morning. This not only provides a nutritious start to the day for their peers but also fosters a sense of responsibility and community among the students. It's a fantastic way for them to develop teamwork and leadership.

### ***Sports in Term 2***

Dance with Miss Libby on Fridays is a fun way for students to express themselves and stay active. It's great to hear them enjoying it. Netball on Wednesdays adds another layer of physical activity and teamwork. These activities not only promote fitness but also help build camaraderie among the students.

**We are taking Enrolments for 2025 & 2026. Please contact the school office for an information pack or visit the school website to complete an enrolment.**

***Glen William Public School***

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Dungog Baptist	4992 2122
Dungog Uniting: Joy Shelton	4992 1508
Presbyterian: Allan Welch	4025 5638
Roman Catholic:	4992 1477

## Medical/Health Contacts

Clarence Town Medical Centre	4996 4003
Prince Street Surgery	4009 5991
Clarence Town Pharmacy	4996 3300
Health Services	4931 2003
Beyond Blue	1300 224 636
Lifeline	13 11 14
Samaritans	1300 656 336
Destiny Haven Women's Shelter	4996 5558
AL-ANON	4969 3889

\*To list your community service email: [thesentinel2321@gmail.com](mailto:thesentinel2321@gmail.com)



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